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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Internal Security Corps in
Warsaw and Przasnysz

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1. The Central Hq of the KBW is located on ul. Rackowiska in the southwestern city sector of WARSAW (R 53/L 09). The barracks also housed an officer candidate school.

a. [redacted] it was learned that articles of clothing were dispatched to the following KBW posts:

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GORA KALWARIA (R 52/L 16)
LODZ (Q 52/O 33)
LANZIG (Q 55/Y 42)
BIALYSTOK (S 54/C 49).
Another WARSAW KBW unit
Several other towns [redacted]

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b. About 1,000 troops were quartered in the barracks on ul. Rackowiska. A large percentage of these troops performed clerical and administrative work. Other troops, including infantry, signal, motor transport, and supply troops, were committed against partisans.

c. One barracks building, separated from the barracks block by a fence, housed an office with the designation "WPW". It was not known what the letters WPW stood for, but it was believed they were equivalent to the former German Secret State Police ("Gestapo").

d. An "information Section" existed with both the KBW unit and the PW.

e. The officer corps included some Soviet officers, ranking from major to colonel. [redacted]

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f. The KBW personnel usually wore brown uniforms, but, in summer, green uniforms also. Officers and EN wore black

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collar patches with silver-grey braids along the inner and lower borders. The epaulets were of uniform cloth and bordered with the respective service colors, i.e. purple, vermillion, dark-blue, and others. The ribbons of the caps corresponded to the service color. Officers wore both round caps with a silver cord and stars, and square-topped caps with crossed strips on top. The clothing of the unit was not uniform.

g. The unit was trained in an area west of the barracks. About three companies of 100 to 150 men each daily went to this area.

h. The unit was armed with Soviet rifles with folding bayonets, Soviet submachine guns with drum magazine (72 rounds), light, air-cooled machine guns with drum magazine, mortars of about 80 mm caliber, to be carried on the back when disassembled. Companies leaving for practices were equipped with three to six light machine guns and one or two mortars.

The following armored vehicles were stationed in the barracks:

(1) About 20 armored reconnaissance cars (half-track vehicles), armed with one gun of about 50 mm caliber or one machine gun of about 20 mm caliber. Markings on engine, chassis, etc. were written in English. The vehicles were said to be of US origin.

(2) Unknown number of small four-wheel armored vehicles with traversable machine gun turret. The vehicles were 9 to 11 feet long, 4 feet high (about 6 feet high including the turret).

(3) Two German armored reconnaissance cars. Numerous passenger cars (mostly Chevrolets or of German origin) and Renault, Studebaker, ZIL, and Gassok trucks.

i. In mid-1948 a large number of recruits were sheltered in tents near the barracks. Upon completion of the basic training, the recruits were assigned to the units in the barracks.

j. A radio station of four fourwire antennas was located in the western section of the barracks. The antennas were set up cross-wise.

k. The officer candidate school was opened about the middle of 1948. The trainees averaged 18 to 20 years of age.

l. A clothing supply room, quantities of quartering equipment, and a fuel depot of five or six semi-underground fuel tanks (each about 10 feet in diameter and 20 to 25 feet long) were located in the barracks.

2. A barrack of the KBW was located on the southern perimeter of PRZASNYSZ (R 54/K 97). It was occupied only by a guard detail of 50 to 60 men in October 1948. The number of troops in the barrack increased to about 600 by March 1949, 200 to 250 of these troops always being committed against partisans. The troops stationed in PRZASNYSZ were

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observed to be relieved three times by troops in the same strength.

The following observations were made:

- a. The uniforms were the same as those worn in the WARSAW KBW barracks with the exception that, in PRZASNYSZ, only field uniforms were worn.
- b. Detachments of about 250 troops were committed against partisans at one time. They left in Studebaker and Renault trucks and usually took with them some of the 20 dogs kept in the barracks. During the four to eight days of commitment the troops were supplied by trucks communicating between the barracks and the area of commitment. The detachments were connected with the barracks by radio.
- c. The troops were armed like those in the WARSAW KBW barracks, but also had heavy machine guns of type Maxim, and egg-shaped hand grenades of various types.
- d. The rate of casualties was low during the time of observations.
- e. Partisans who had been taken prisoners were shipped to WARSAW; they were members of anti-Communist underground movements or marauders.
- f. The barracks housed a large ration supply storeroom, an "Information Section", and a radio station.

Comment.

- a. The report confirms in its essential points previous information on the KBW units concerned.
- b. The designation WPW cannot be determined. A report of November 1947 stated that the designation KBW was recently changed into KBW (i.e. Troops for the Interior Security, in Polish: Wojska Bezpieczenstwa Wewnetrznego). It is possible that KBW was mistaken for WPW in hearing.
- c. The statements indicate that PRZASNYSZ was not permanently occupied by KBW troops but was used only as a jump-off position for commitment against partisans.
- d. Several mobile radio stations, apparently employed in actions against partisans, were observed in the area south of the border towards East Prussia. Pertinent information was contained in two previous reports on the Polish radio net.
- e. A Polish press report of late May 1949 indicates that the KBW cadet corps consists of sons of former partisans who were killed while fighting against the German occupation forces. Besides school education, the cadets receive military training for later service with the KBW.

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